(v) Purchase preference will also be available to only those privatized CPSEs where specific Government approval has been accorded for the specific periods from the date of disinvestment.

(vi) Respective Ministries/Departments/autonomous bodies/ CPSEs will be responsible for implementing the Purchase Preference Policy.

(vii) As per the existing policy the provisions relating to purchase preference should be specified in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for rupees five crores and above. For any deviation including exclusion of the purchase preference clause from the NIT, it will be obligatory for the concerned Ministry/ Department/CPSES/autonomous bodies to obtain prior exemption from the Cabinet in consultation with the Department of Public Enterprises.

(viii) Other provisions of the purchase preference policy remain unaltered.

(d) Various steps are taken to make the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) more efficient, competitive and self-supporting in the liberalised economic environment. Some of the steps include delegation of enhanced powers and greater operational autonomy through the mechanism of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Navratna/Mini-ratna schemes, professionalisation of Board of Directors, reduction of centralised guidelines, business and financial restructuring, formation of joint ventures, modernisation of plant and machinery, upgradation of technology, purchase preference, rationalisation of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) etc.

Sale of ITDC hotels

*406. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ITDC hotels, so far, sold off;

(b) the number of hotels yet to be sold; and

(c) the details of ITDC hotels not to be sold off and the fate of the employees of ITDC hotels already sold?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Prior to disinvestment of some of its hotel properties, India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) was operating 26 hotels owned by it and 6 hotels under joint venture with various State Governments. Besides these, ITDC had 2 incomplete projects—1 at Chandigarh and the other as Joint Venture at Anandpur Sahib. Out of these 34, the Government has accepted the financial bids for the following 18 properties of ITDC:—

1. Ashok Bangalore (including Airport Restaurant)	Given on lease-cum-management contract
2. Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok	Sale of 100% Govt, equity completed.
3. Hotel Hassan Ashok	-do-
4. Hotel Madurai Ashok	-do-
5. Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram	-do-
6. Hotel Agra Ashok	-do-
7. Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur	-do
8. Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	-do-
9. Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	-do-"
10. Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata (including Airport Restaurant)	do-
11. Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	-do-
12. Hotel Manali Ashok	-do-
13. Hotel Khajuraho Ashok	-do-
14. Hotel Varanasi Ashok	do-
15. Hotel Aurangabad Ashok (including Airport Restaurant)	Tansaction to be completed shortly.
16. Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi	do-
17. Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi	-do-
18. Incomplete Chandigarh Project	-do-

(b) The process of disinvestment of the following ITDC owned properties is on:-

1.	Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	100% Govt, equity to be sold
2.	Hotel KalingaAshok, Bhubaneswar	-do-
3.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok	-do-
4.	Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna	-do-
5.	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu	-do-
6.	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi	(to be given on lease-cum-management contract)

With respect to the following seven joint venture properties, action has been initiated towards disinvestment in consultation with the respective State Governments:-

1. Hotel Neelachal Ashok, Puri
2. Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi
3. Hotel Lakeview Ashok, Bhopal
4. Hotel Brahamputra Ashok, Guwahati
5. Hotel Pondicherry, Ashok
6. Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar
7. Hotel Punjab Ashok, Anandpur Sahib (incomplete project)

(c) Disinvestment transaction in respect of the following three ITDC hotels is presently not under consideration:-

1. Hotel Ashok, New Delhi
2. Hotel Janpath, New Delhi
3. Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore.

The services of all the employees of the ITDC hotels sold, namely, Bodhgaya, Hassan, Madurai, Mamallapuram, Agra, Udaipur and hotels Qutab and Lodhi at New Delhi have been transferred to the new owners

under the same terms and conditions of service, including Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), enjoyed by them earlier when under ITDC management.The employees of the hotels at Kovalam, Kolkata, Manali, Khajuraho and Varanasi who have not opted for VRS, have also been transferred to the new owners, duly protecting their existing service conditions. The interest of the employees of hotels Aurangabad Ashok, Kanishka & Indraprastha would be similarly protected.The services of all the employees of Hotel Bangalore Ashok (including Airport Restaurant) have been transferred to the new lessee duly protecting their existing service conditions. At Chandigarh, there were no employees.

Labelling on Soft Drinks

4407. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the harmful effects of carbonated soft drinks on health and their habit-forming nature;

(b) whether Government are also aware that many foreign countries make it mandatory to label soft drink bottles and cans with warning about presence of caffeine, calorie content and the type and amount of sweetener used;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to find out which foreign country has regulations for such compulsory markings;

(d) whether Government have any plan of introducing such mandatory labelling of soft drinks in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Carbonated beverages conforming to the standards as laid down under PFA Rules, 1955, are safe for human consumption.

(b) to (e) Government is aware of the lebelling regulations prevalent in foreign countries. Specific labelling provisions have been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955, at par with International Labelling Provisions for